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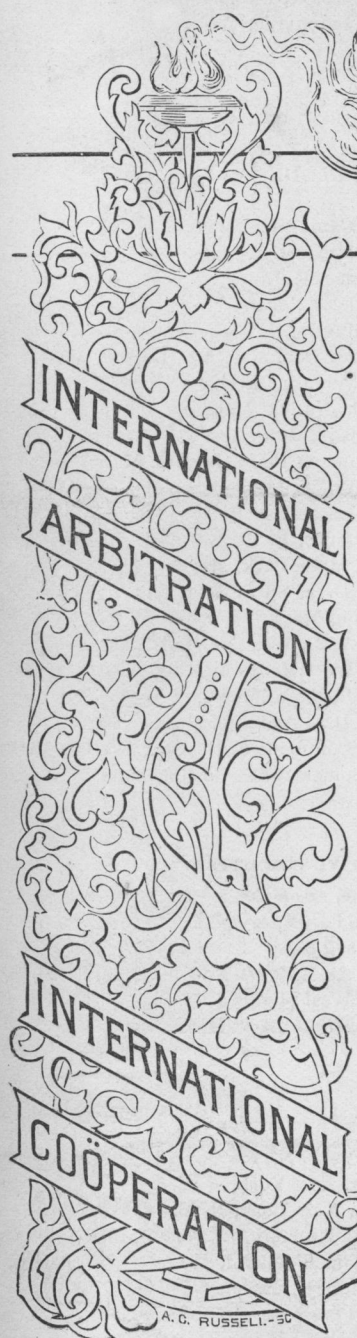
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THE ADVOCATE — OF — PEACE.

BOSTON, JANUARY, 1896.



And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



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THE OUTLOOK.

Though this number of the *ADVOCATE* will not reach our readers till some time after New Year's Day, yet we heartily wish them all a happy new year. We utter this wish having most in mind the deeper meaning of happiness as rooted in right-being and right-doing. The life that is right with God, with itself and with the world of man about is sure to be happy in the best sense, whatever superficial happiness it may or may not have. There is no greater joy than that of serving, and every peace-maker's mission is one of the holiest kind of service.

The year before us opens with many clouds in the sky; some of them dark and threatening. Armenia is still the scene of massacre, rapine, outrage and cruel suffering unparalleled in recent times. Cuba is devastated and distracted by a long continued and bitter war, the end of which it is difficult to foresee. The Italians in Abyssinia are fighting with the natives. Worst of all, the people of the United States and of Great Britain have recently been

thrown into a frenzy of excitement over threats of war about a boundary squabble in South America. Through this unfortunate excitement, not to say bitterness of feeling, old animosity and distrust have been aroused and all hopes of a speedy consummation of the proposed permanent treaty of arbitration between the two great countries have been for the present stifled.

But must we cease effort because of the apparent untowardness of the times? Exactly the contrary. The greater the obstacles, the more earnest and unceasing should be both our labors and our prayers. We do not believe that, except superficially and apparently, the outlook is gloomy. Beyond the clouds the sky still exists, and the sun, and the stars, and God. Here on the earth also truth and righteousness and love and good will are more strongly rooted in the minds and customs and institutions of men than ever before in human history. The present convulsions of evil will not uproot them, but rather drive them deeper into the soil. We ought not be too much surprised and discouraged at these periodic outbursts of iniquity. Evil is still in the world, and though it is gradually being crowded to the wall, we shall yet have many hard hand-to-hand conflicts with it before it finally goes down. The friends of righteousness and justice and peace are many, and if they are faithful at their posts and confident of success they will be able speedily to clear much of the present gloominess away and greatly brighten the outlook.

THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL MESSAGE.

President Cleveland's special message to Congress on December 17, touching the relation of the United States to the British-Venezuelan boundary dispute, fell upon the country like a thunder-bolt out of a clear sky. It was known that the State Department had in July last addressed a strong note to the British Foreign Office, urging the submission of the dispute to arbitration. The contents of this letter of Mr. Olney was known to the country only in an indefinite way. It had leaked out that Lord Salisbury's reply would be unfavorable, and the country was expecting some unusual development in the case. But nobody was prepared for the course which the President actually took, and the country from Con-